## TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

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issue because, frankly, I didn't know how I was going to vote on And I probably still don't know how I'm going to vote on that, on this...on this issue. But I'd like to say that I have had some previous speakers who are convincing me one way, and I think Senator Pederson, Senator Wickersham had made compelling evidence that things are going to be done, and Senator Wickersham says it will fall on the property tax owners. And I can't do that to my district. I did get several phone calls and e-mails when the session first started, the budget was being the main issue here this year, but not very many, 2 or 3 to speak of, that said, cut the budget, don't increase taxes. However, now that the budget is here and we have the overrides here, now I'm besieged with phone calls and e-mails saying override this, override that, don't take this away, don't take that away. So, you see, they did not have a good firm understanding of what this budget bill would do to them, the constituents. So I... I have to say that I really think that the Governor is putting us in the hot seat here. This is election year for him, as well as it is for me and others in this body, and we've...yes, it could be a good save your hide bill and just, you know, sustain the overrides and say I didn't increase taxes. And, of course, that's what the Governor is doing. wants us to look like we raised the taxes. And I kind of resent having our beautiful Unicameral nonpartisan Legislature being made into a partisan Legislature. And I've seen that with this budget bill. This is a partisan issue right now. This is now as we now have a two-party system. We have two parties here, and I don't like that. It upsets me almost as much as the budget bill upsets me. I would just like to share with you a letter from an ESU, actually it was a school teacher, a superintendent, and talk about mandates, the mandates that we have done to our schools and to our constituents. And he writes that a few years ago the ESUs were limited on their taxing by the Legislature. We did that to them. At the same time the Legislature, that's us, made a commitment to supplying some core service dollars. Okay, schools rely on these core services for staff development. We, and he is telling me, we need staff development because of other things the Legislature, that's us, has done to us, to them, the schools. Assessments are one big component. Now you'll stuck us, he is telling me, we, the Legislature have stuck the schools with the time-consuming and